(a) whether Government has received any request from the Federation of Indian Exports Organization (FIEO) to help growth of exports in respect of specific items of exports especially Tea exports;

(b) if so, the demand made by the FIEO; and

(c) the Governments response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; FIEO requested for inclusion of Tea in Vishesh Krishi Gramin Udyog Yojna (VKGUY) Scheme.

(c) Due to the paucity of funds, their request could not be considered.

**Decline in industrial output**

443. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial output dipped by 2.3 per cent worst in 16 years in March this year, while production of consumer durable had out shown giving a ray of hope;

(b) if so, the comparative month to month industrial output during last six months; and

(c) the reasons for the sharp decline in March, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per the revised estimates released by Central Statistical Organisation, the industrial growth, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) registered a growth of (-)0.8 % in March, 2009 compared to the growth rate of 5.5% in March, 2008. The consumer durables has been recording positive growth since January, 2009. The industrial growth measured in terms of IIP during last six months of 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given below:

*Index of Industrial Production*

(Growth in %)

| Month | Consumer Durables | | Overall Industrial Growth | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| October | 9.0 | -1.6 | 12.2 | 0.1 |
| November | -5.5 | 0.3 | 4.9 | 2.5 |
| December | 2.8 | -4.2 | 8.0 | -0.2 |
| January | -0.5 | 2.1 | 6.2 | 1.0 |
| February | 3.1 | 5.8 | 9.5 | -0.7 |
| March | -2.0 | 8.2 | 5.5 | -0.8 |
| April-March | -1.0 | 4.4 | 8.5 | 2.6 |

SOURCE: Central Statistical Organisation.

(c) The decline in industrial growth in 2008-09 was primarily due to global economic slowdown. The slowdown has affected some of the export oriented industries in India, such as textiles,

handicrafts, leather and gems & jewellery. Slowdown in the demand for automobiles and its ancillaries, steel etc. has also been seen.

Industrial groups such as food products, wool, silk & manmade fibre, cotton textiles, wool, silk and man-made fibre textiles, textile products, wood & wood products, leather, basic metal and alloy industries, metal products and parts, machinery and equipment other than transport equipment etc. registered a decline in the month of March, 2009.

**Trade deficit due to global recession**

444. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's exports and imports are getting hit big due to recession and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the exact reasons therefor;

(c) the details of trade deficit recorded so far;

(d) whether it is also a fact that India's exports will pick up from July onwards and may touch the $185 billion mark in 2009-10 on the back of diversification to countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia; and

(e) if so, the details thereof available with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of export, import and trade deficit recorded so far is given below:

(Value in US $ Billion)

| Year | Exports | Growth Rate (%) | Imports | Growth Rate (%) | Trade Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-2008 | 163.0 | 29.1 | 251.6 | 35.5 | -88.6 |
| 2008-2009 (P) | 168.7 | 3.5 | 287.8 | 14.4 | -119.1 |
| 2009-10 (April-May) | 21.8 | -31.2 | 32.0 | -38.0 | -10.2 |

(P) - Provisional

DATA SOURCE: DGCI&S, Kolkata

The slow growth of trade during 2008-09 and the negative growth of trade during current year 2009-10 (April-May) is primarily due to economic slowdown in India's major export destinations and slowdown in the domestic demand for industrial inputs and intermediate products.

(d) and (e) The world economy is still going through recession and therefore it is very difficult to forecast timeline for improvement in India's exports.

**Scrapping of import duty on crude soyaoil**

445. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: